

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given to the present application and the courtesies extended to applicant's representative during a telephone interview on April 6, 2006. During that interview, the Examiner indicated that he had interpreted various phrases in the pending claims as reciting intended uses and thus these phrases were not given patentable weight. Although the Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's assessment, pending claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicant does not believe these amendments alter the scope of the pending claims. Moreover, since these issues were not previously raised by the Examiner in earlier discussions with the Applicant, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the finality of the pending rejection. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-38 and 44-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0178034 (Gardner). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

During the interview, the Examiner further indicated that the claims as amended herein define patentable subject matter over Gardner, but that these claims may also necessitate further consideration. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 10, 2006

By: 

Timothy D. MacIntyre
Reg. No. 42824

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

TDM/drl